



September 29, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Norse Atlantic Airways AS  
Docket No. DOT-OST-2021-0117-0001

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Chicago Rockford International Airport wishes to express its support for the application for an exemption and foreign air carrier permit filed by Norse Atlantic Airways AS (Norse Atlantic).

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted airports and the aviation industry across the globe. As the United States moves to ease restrictions on inbound international air travel, Chicago Rockford International Airport welcomes the opportunity to bring new transatlantic scheduled air services to our community.

Norse Atlantic's proposed service will provide communities and underserved airports, such as Chicago Rockford International Airport, the opportunity to improve its connectivity to and from Europe. Should Norse Atlantic choose as a destination Chicago Rockford International Airport, the affordable fares on more environmentally- friendly Boeing 787 aircraft would be attractive to travelers in our region and would deliver substantial economic benefit through increased levels of tourism from Europe to the Rockford Metro area.

The carrier's commitment to hiring personnel in the United States would provide welcome job creation opportunities in an industry which has lost thousands of jobs during this unprecedented crisis. Within a 90-mile radius of Rockford there are more than 250 aerospace companies, including several tier-one aerospace suppliers, and a regional workforce that is comprised of more than 56,000 engineers. To be sure, our region is heavily impacted by the overall wellbeing of the aviation industry; we look favorably on new entrant carriers that will help sustain and grow aviation jobs in the United States.



In closing, I encourage the Department to approve Norse Atlantic's application for an exemption and foreign air carrier permit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael P. Dunn'.

Michael P. Dunn  
Executive Director